

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01574 210108Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /037 W

----- 055876

R 201026Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1574

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, LE

SUBJ: SUITABILITY OF BEIRUT AS SITE FOR ESTABLISHING REGIONAL OFFICE
OF U.S. FIRMS

REF: BERN 743

1. SITUATION ON U.S. FIRMS IN BEIRUT STILL NOT CLEAR. TOO EARLY TO PRIDICT ANY DEFINITE TRENDS. WHILE MANY U.S. FIRSM DEPARTED, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER REMAINED EITER IN ORIGINAL SIZE OR REDUCED SIZE.
2. OUTLOOK FOR BEIRUT AS MAJOR CENTER DEPENDS ON SECURITY SITUATION HERE. IF CONFIDENCE IN SECURITY ESTORED, BEIRUT WILL ONCE AGAIN BECOME A MAJOR REGIONAL CENTER IN TIME. NECESITY OF FIRMS LEAVING BEIRUT TO SEEK OUT ALTERNATE LOCATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS ONLY LENT STRENGTH TO THIS CONVICTION.
3. IN LIGHTOF SECURITY SITUATION, PARTICULARLY CONTINUING WAVE OF KIDNAPPINGS, OFFICIAL POLICYOSEMAINS THAT ONLY THOSE HAVING ESSENTIAL BUSINESS SHOULD VISIT BEIRUT. HOWEVER A NOTICABLE NUMBER OF BUSINESS PEOPLE HAVE N FACT BEEN SHOWING UP. ANY DECISION TO ESTABLISH IN BEIRUT SHOULD NOT BE MADE PRIOR TO ON-SITE SURVEY.

4. HOTEL SPACE IS AVAILABLE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT01574
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760065-0354
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760232/aaaabbdh.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERN 743
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUITABILITY OF BEIRUT AS SITE FOR ESTABLISHING REGIONAL OFFICE OF U.S. FIRMS
TAGS: BGEN, BTRA, LE
To: BERN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006